

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7535

Petition of AARP, pursuant to 30 VSA § 218(e), for the )  
establishment of reduced rates for low-income )  
consumers of Green Mountain Power Corporation and )  
Central Vermont Public Service Corporation )

Order entered: 8/11/2009

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM,  
SCHEDULING ORDER, AND NOTICE OF WORKSHOP**

On August 4, 2009, I held a prehearing conference in this investigation. The principle purpose of the conference was to establish a schedule for this docket. The following parties entered appearances: Sarah Hoffman, Esq., for the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department"), James Dumont, Esq., for AARP; Mary Morris for Green Mountain Power Corporation ("GMP"); and Jeanne E. Burns, Esq., for Central Vermont Public Service Corporation ("CVPS"). Also in attendance at the prehearing conference were representatives from the Associated Industries of Vermont, International Business Machines Corporation ("IBM"), and Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.

At the prehearing conference, those attending agreed to start this investigation with an informal workshop followed by a more formal investigation and proceeding. The parties indicated that they would be available for a workshop on September 2, 2009. The Board's 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Hearing Room has been reserved for that date for the workshop.

The Department raised the question of whether the investigation should focus narrowly on the service territories of GMP and CVPS. There was broad agreement in the room that the investigation should be expanded to include participation by other utilities and to consider a program that might extend beyond the service territories of GMP and CVPS. The Department requested additional opportunity for comment on the issue to allow it additional opportunity for discussion with the other distribution utilities potentially affected. It was agreed that the Department and others in attendance would have until August 11, 2009, to provide additional comments on this question.

I requested that the parties prepare a list of topics for discussion at the first workshop. The Department agreed to help coordinate the development of such a list and submit it by August 18, 2009.<sup>1</sup>

The parties agreed to the following schedule, which I hereby adopt:<sup>2</sup>

August 11, 2009	Comments on whether scope of investigation should include generic statewide application of issues, development of a statewide low-income program, and/or tiered implementation of a program to other distribution utilities beyond GMP and CVPS <sup>3</sup> , with copies to be provided to all electric distribution utilities
August 18, 2009	List of issues for discussion at workshop to be filed <sup>4</sup>
August 21, 2009	Reply comments from other utilities concerning comments filed on August 11, 2009
August 26, 2009	Deadline for intervention requests
September 2, 2009	Workshop at PSB (9:30 AM to 4:30 PM)
September 9, 2009	Response to requests for interventions
September 23, 2009	AARP files direct testimony
September 30, 2009	Formal discovery begins – 1 <sup>st</sup> round discovery on AARP
October 7, 2009 <sup>5</sup>	Public hearing over VIT network (7:00 PM)
October 13, 2009	Responses to 1 <sup>st</sup> round discovery
October 20, 2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> round discovery on AARP
October 30, 2009	Responses to 2 <sup>nd</sup> round discovery

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1. We actually discussed August 17<sup>th</sup>; however, the 17<sup>th</sup> is a state holiday, and I consequently moved the due date to August 18<sup>th</sup>.

2. As we discussed at the workshop, the filing deadlines above correspond to the due dates for electronic submissions to be followed by the filing of paper submissions the next day.

3. To the extent this investigation is broadened, notice will be provided to the other Vermont electric distribution utilities by the Vermont Public Service Board.

4. The additional opportunity for comment on the August 11, 2009, filings constitutes an addition by the Hearing Officer not discussed at the prehearing.

5. At the workshop, it was agreed that a public hearing should take place during the week of October 5, 2009. The October 7 date was established in consultation with the Clerk of the Board in collaboration with Vermont Interactive Television.

November 6, 2009	DPS/utilities/other intervenors file testimony
November 13, 2009	Discovery on the DPS/utilities/other intervenors
November 23, 2009	Responses to discovery on DPS/utilities/other intervenors
December 7, 2009	AARP rebuttal testimony to be filed
December 14, 2009	Discovery on rebuttal testimony of AARP
December 31, 2009	Responses to discovery from AARP
Week of January 11, 2010 – Technical hearings and live surrebuttal	

AARP agreed to informal discovery following the September 2, 2009, workshop up to the start of formal discovery.

I anticipate that the Board will consider the comments and recommendations concerning the reach of the programs and policies some time during the weeks of August 11, 2009, and August 17, 2009, and respond soon thereafter. We are distributing this notice to other Vermont utilities at this time to notify them of the August 21, 2009, reply date concerning the scope or reach of the programs considered in the context of this investigation and the September 2, 2009, workshop.

#### **NOTICE OF WORKSHOP**

\_\_\_\_\_An informal workshop will be held in this matter, from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. The workshop will be held at the PSB Hearing Room, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Chittenden Bank Building, in Montpelier, Vermont.

#### **SO ORDERED.**

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

s/J. Riley Allen  
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: August 11, 2009

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson

Clerk of the Board

*NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)*